Elgin Museum and Historical Society

September, 2018

LYNN KNAPP NAVY BOUND

Born in La Grande, Lynn Knapp attended all grades in Elgin before signing up with the Navy. "It was a pretty exclusive class he noted, with members including Jared and Debbi Rogers, Andrea Galleway, Jim and Risa Hallgarth, and Robert Witherspoon."

"I loved shop," Lynn related, "and I would say that Don Hendrix was my favorite teacher." I guess I came by it naturally," he noted, "because my dad worked with wood. He retired as superintendent of maintenance for the stud and plywood plant."

When asked about favorite school stories, Lynn recalled when a jeep was moved into the middle of the gym. "They were respectful, though, and put towels from the locker room under each of the tires. We thought everyone was going to be in trouble. Louie Sayer was was the instigator and his dad was the principal/superintendent." Knapp shared another story in which Dick Shaffer was driving his old jeep to school and he buried it in the snow and mud. "He came to school totally covered in mud!"

After graduating high school, Lynn enlisted in the navy. His basic training was in San Diego, before being transferred to Chicago where training was held on the Great Lakes. He trained as a diesel mechanic before being transferred to New London, Connecticut for submarine service. One of the training procedures involved a 100 foot tower filled with water. Men were required to enter from the bottom and figure out how to reach the surface exhaling all the way. "If you didn't exhale, the instructor would punch you in the stomach so you would exhale. Figuring out how to exhale was the fun part of it!"

Lynn's training for submarine service landed him at Key West, Florida and he was assigned to the USS Sea Leopard, where he worked with the diesel engine for two years. Indianhead, Maryland was the next job involving diving and explosive ordinance disposal.

After retiring from the navy, Knapp went to work at Quantico, Virginia on a submarine based as a mechanic. Still living in Virginia, he decided to take a position a position of equipment maintenance at a large poultry company. He said that the plant would process 80-90 thousand turkeys a day. "It doesn't bother me to eat them because I know about the cleanliness required in the process." It was in Virginia that Lynn married his wife, Theresa, in 1991.

"I totally retired in April and left to move home to help Mom. It's nice to be home again," he stated. Now Lynn still dabbles with his love of woodwork and enjoys four wheeling around the area. Now that he is back, he also wants to take up hunting. "I like to spend time in the woods. I just enjoy the outdoors."

our nation's heroes. We are not going to forget Washington and his men at Valley Forge—who never gave up. We are not going to forget that Thomas Jefferson fought not with the sword, but with the pen and all the words at his command; that people of a free nation might have their freedom secured through a national system of free education. We are not going to forget the immortal Lincoln, who dared to stand firm for the right as he saw it. We are not going to forget the heroes of the Argonne and their comrades in arms of another great world war. We are not going to forget the heroes of the South Pacific—the men whose lives were snuffed out at Pearl Harbor, at Bataan, at Midway, at Wake—nor the efforts of those who guard our security on foreign fields on the other side of the Atlantic.

We are young—yes--but the dictators, who thought American youth soft, incapable of shouldering the responsibilities of citizens in a democracy, have begun to learn, and will continue to learn in the days to come that the blood of cowards is not in our veins. Fresh from high schools and colleges the youth of a united nation goes forth to fight again for the old principles of Americans.

With the complex problems which confront the world and the nation at the present time there can be no confusion in this—American seeks no aggression for herself or any nation. America seeks but to preserve for herself the right to keep democracy at work. America seeks but the right for all nations to live according to their pattern of life. America seeks but the right for all nations to live according to their pattern of life. America seeks but the right for all people to live in harmony with their neighbor nations peacefully and unafraid.

That we might live peacefully and unafraid is the reason American soldiers and sailors, and airmen, have always been willing to make the supreme sacrifice if necessary. That is the reason why today millions of American fighters are on the many battlefronts of the world. That is the reason the workers on the homefront are enlisted for the duration in the war effort. We are all highly resolved that American ideals shall prevail—that American principles of government shall survive.

With such resolution in our hearts, with such thoughts in our minds, the class of nineteen hundred forty-three leaves this night the Imbler high school to be inducted into the service on the battlefront or in the homefront—as and where we are called to serve.

ELGIN MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Contact us: c/o 68070 Hunter Road
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The Board would like to print the names of those making donations unless otherwise specified. All donations to the Elgin Museum and Historical Society are tax deductible.

In order to protect their complexion and hair from the harsh sun and the constant wind, many of the women and girls who crossed the Oregon Trail chose to wear sunbonnets.